

Supergroup Meeting Notes November 3, 1999

The Supergroup met at the Green Tree Inn on Wednesday, November 3, 1999. Approximately 60 participants were present representing over 40 interest groups. The agenda of the meeting focused on the process by which task groups will write the West Mojave Plan. The Supergroup established four task groups, outlined their assignments, adopted rules to guide their deliberations, and set meeting dates. These are described below. In addition, the **Supergroup scheduled its next meeting for Wednesday, January 26, 2000 at the Victorville Green Tree Inn.** Meeting notes were compiled from several sources, principally from notes taken by facilitator Dennis Rempel.

Adopted Task Groups

Four task groups were established by the Supergroup. They are described below:

Task Group 1: Wildlife and Plant Conservation Strategies. This group will begin by determining whether the desert wildlife management areas recommended by the Evaluation Report (ER) for the desert tortoise should be adopted as suggested; if not, the group should identify modified boundaries. The group should also identify the boundaries of the incidental take areas discussed by the ER. The group should then identify ER recommendations concerning the tortoise, and special management areas, prescriptions and proactive programs for birds, mammals and small reptiles which could be adopted as written, or which require little modification. It will also identify components of the conservation strategies which need further discussion, and will develop any necessary modifications. It is expected that conservation strategies for the Mohave ground squirrel and for plants will be provided to the Supergroup within the next few weeks; these will be referred to the Task Group.

Task Group 2: BLM Vehicle Access Network. BLM will provide the Supergroup with two sets of 1:100,000 maps: one set that indicates the off highway vehicle routes inventoried by the planning team, and a second set that suggests a network of vehicle routes. The Task Group will review the network for consistency with the conservation strategies developed by other Task Groups, identifying any necessary changes to the network for biological, commercial or recreation management needs. This Task Group will also be responsible for the identification of maps which the planning team should provide to all of the Task Groups.

Task Group 3: Government Policy and Regulatory Issues. The group will identify operations, activities and permits which could be covered by programmatic section 2081 and 10(a) incidental take permits, or addressed by programmatic section 7 consultations. It will clarify permit-timing issues (for example, should the permit be required at the time of the building permit? Grading permit?), and thresholds for determining whether an action is subject to the permit (for example, the nature and size of land improvements). The group should recommend whether certain activities should be exempt from the Plan's requirements. The group should discuss the relationship between the Plan and permits required by other authorities, such as the Corps of Engineers (404 permits, etc), and federal land use decisions. It should also address the

HCP-CEQA relationship, determining whether, for a given species, agency discretion under CEQA to require additional survey and compensation for a species should (or could) remain even though pre-set survey and compensation requirements are established by the incidental take permit.

Task Group 4: Implementation. The group will develop the methods for implementing the plan, including, at a minimum, the following. It should identify the total estimated cost of implementing the plan, and should recommend the amount and method of application of any necessary development fees. It should determine the most appropriate means to establish and manage the account(s) or endowment (e.g. private non-profits? Joint powers or other comparable government entities?) in which development fees, grants, donations, appropriated funds or other moneys might be deposited. The group should develop a mechanism to govern the day to day oversight of plan implementation, including setting priorities, overseeing and auditing expenditures. It should ensure that monitoring results are used to make any necessary alterations in conservation strategies, including plan amendments (i.e. “adaptive management”).

Adopted Groundrules for Task Groups

By consensus, the group agreed on the following ground rules:

1. There should be no limit on the number of groups any one person can belong to (but no member can be a “schedule roadblock”).
2. There should be no limit on the number of members of any Task Group, but there is a need to limit the number of members from each organization or interest group.
3. The facilitators will help to maintain the group’s manageability.
4. Each Task Group member has the responsibility to come prepared to each meeting.
5. The facilitators or a West Mojave planning team member will take and prepare the notes at all Task Group meetings.
6. The notes will be in Draft form and open to amendment. At the next meeting of the Task Group, they will be reviewed to insure they accurately reflect what went on at the previous meeting. At that point they will become the final notes of the meeting to which they refer.
7. The turn around time for the submission of the draft notes to the Task Group members is to be no more than one week. The notes will be distributed by email to the Supergroup and pasted on the WM web site. Supergroup feed back will be provided and reviewed at each Task Group meeting. Hard copies of notes will be faxed or mailed when requested.

8. Each Task Group will reach recommendations based upon a consensus of the group. These recommendations are not binding on the Supergroup. Should there be any outstanding issues upon which a consensus has not been reached, the Task Group is collectively responsible for submission of other options or recommendations.
9. Task Groups can decide who their Contact Person or Coordinator will be. This person may change. The Contact Person or Coordinator will be responsible for reporting back to the Steering Committee on the Task Group's progress. It is strongly suggested that the Contact Person or Coordinator not be an existing Steering Group member.
10. Notice of all Task Group meetings will be posted on the web site and elsewhere as is possible and reasonable.

Task Group Administrative Matters

A laptop will be available at each Task Group meeting for easy access to information relative to the West Mojave Plan. A set of maps will be provided at each Task Group meeting. Certain maps with sensitive information may be used but will remain with a Planning Team member at the end of the meeting.

Each Task Group will meet within the next few weeks for an organizational meeting and to develop a work schedule. Meeting times follow:

Date/Time: November 16, 1999 -- 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Group: Task Group 4: Implementation
Location: US Forest Service Fire Lab, Riverside, 4955 Canyon Crest Drive

[Note: The Task Group 4 meeting was originally going to be held at the BLM Riverside Office; the location has been changed due to room availability.]

Date/Time: November 22, 1999 -- 9:00 am - 11 am
Group: Task Group 2: BLM Vehicle Access Network
Location: Green Tree Inn, Victorville

Date/Time: November 22, 1999 -- 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Group: Task Group 1: Wildlife and Plant Conservation Strategies
Location: Green Tree Inn, Victorville

Date/Time: November 22, 1999 -- 5:00 pm - 7 pm
Group: Task Group 3: Government Policy and Regulatory Issues
Location: Green Tree Inn, Victorville

The Steering Committee will meet on November 30, 1999 with the Contact Person or Coordinator of each Task Group, and with the facilitators.

Monday, April 3, 2000 will be the target date for the completion of the work of the Task Groups.

Concerns to be Addressed

Concern was raised that there be consistency in the choice of terms used in writing the various portions of the plan. Likewise, since various interest groups are involved in the development of other desert planning projects, it was requested that some effort be made to use similar vocabulary, where feasible, as in these other plans.

The planning team was directed to make sure that adequate maps be provided to Supergroup members and to the Task Groups, and that this be done in a prompt manner. Concern was raised that information relative to the plan not be “filtered” prior to its coming to the group. Planning area maps of tortoise occurrence, proposed and existing conservation areas, disturbances, livestock grazing allotments, wilderness and utility corridors will be provided. It is understood that certain sensitive cultural or species sites will not be made available for broader distribution.

Task Group Members

Following is a current list of task group members. Please let me know ASAP if you would like to become a member of any of the task groups. If you wish to join, I encourage you to attend the organizational meetings listed above.

Task Group 1 Wildlife and Plant Conservation Strategies

Name	Organization
Ileene Anderson	California Native Plants Society
Dana Bell	NOAVCC, American Motorcycle Assoc
Marie Brashear	National Outdoor Coalition
	World Rockhounds Association, SPCW
Paul Condon	City of California City
Mike Connor	Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee
	Desert Tortoise Council
	California Turtle and Tortoise Club
Tom Egan	Bureau of Land Management (Barstow FO)
Jeri Ferguson	California 4WD Clubs
Dave Fisher	Grazing
Marc Graff	Desert Tortoise Council
	California Turtle and Tortoise Club

Art Gleason
 Shirley Hibbetts
 Gerry Hillier
 Peter Kiriakos
 Gene Kulesza
 Lorelei Oviatt
 Deborah Jackson
 Mickey Quillman
 Mike Rauschkolb
 Tamara Sasaki
 Iain Scarr
 Pat Smith
 Bill Standard
 Donna Thomas
 Barbara Veale
 Ed Waldheim
 To Be Assigned

Marine Corps Logistics Base NEBO
 Envirocheck
 San Bernardino County
 Sierra Club
 Mojave Desert Mining Advisory Council
 Kern County
 MH Wolfe & Associates
 National Training Center Fort Irwin
 U.S. Borax
 California Department of Parks and Recreation
 U.S. Borax
 Omya
 Indian Wells Valley Water District
 Resource Conservation Districts
 People for the USA
 California Off Road Vehicle Association
 California Department of Fish and Game

Task Group 2
BLM Vehicle Access Network

Name	Organization
Ileene Anderson	California Native Plants Society
Steve Carpenter	U.S. Borax
Paul Condon	City of California City
Mike Connor	Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee
	Desert Tortoise Council
	California Turtle and Tortoise Club
Jeri Ferguson	California 4WD Clubs
Dave Fisher	Rancher
Gerry Hillier	San Bernardino County
Grant Jensen	California Department of Parks and Recreation
Harold Johnson	Bureau of Land Management (Barstow)
Jim Johnson	Johnson Ranch
Pete Kiriakos	Sierra Club
Paul Kober	
Lowell Landowski	California Dept of Parks and Recreation
John Rains	California Portland Cement Company
	Mojave Desert Mining Advisory Council
Laura Solocio	Southern California Edison
Ed Waldheim	California Off Road Vehicle Association
To Be Assigned	California Department of Fish and Game

Task Group 3

Government Policy and Regulatory Issues

Name	Organization
Ileene Anderson	California Native Plants Society
Margie Balfour	Mines Exploration Inc.
Mike Connor	Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee
	Desert Tortoise Council
	California Turtle and Tortoise Club
Tom Dailor	Los Angeles Dept of Water and Power
Mike DeKeyrel	Bureau of Land Management (Barstow)
Mark Ellis	U. S. Borax
Jeri Ferguson	California 4WD Clubs
Peter Kiriakos	Sierra Club
Lowell Landowski	California Dept of Parks and Recreation
Lois Landrum	City of Ridgecrest
Art Miller	Private Citizen
Chris Rumm	Inyo County
Jim Schroeter	City of California City
Randy Scott	San Bernardino County
Frank Sheets	TXI Riverside Cement
Bill Standard	Indian Wells Valley Water District
Bob Strub	Searles Valley
To Be Assigned	California Department of Fish and Game

Task Group 4 Implementation

Name	Organization
Tricia Aberg	Town of Yucca Valley
Ileene Anderson	California Native Plants Society
Marie Brashear	National Outdoor Coalition
	World Rockhounds Association
	SPCW
Mike Connor	Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee
	Desert Tortoise Council
	California Turtle and Tortoise Club
Mark Depoy	Bureau of Land Management (Barstow)
Jeri Ferguson	California Association of 4WD Clubs
Marc Graff	Desert Tortoise Council
	California Turtle and Tortoise Club
Jeanette Hayhurst	City of Barstow
Grant Jensen	California Dept of Parks and Recreation
Peter Kiriakos	Sierra Club

Gene Kulesza
Lowell Landowski
Art Miller
Randy Scott
Donna Thomas
Barbara Veale
Ed Waldheim
Arden Wallum
To Be Assigned

Mojave Desert Mining Advisory Council
California Dept of Parks and Recreation
Private Citizen
San Bernardino County
Resource Conservation Districts
People for the USA
California Off Road Vehicle Association
Imperial Wells Valley Water District
California Department of Fish and Game